I claim:

1. A cooking appliance comprising:

a housing having a base and lid that define a cooking region therebetween,

a gas-fired firebox supported by said housing disposed laterally of said cooking region to produce heated gases,

at least one air channel within said housing in communication with said heated gases and said cooking region,

a source of electrical power, and

a blower powered by the source of electrical power to circulate heated air from said at least one air channel to the cooking region.

2. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein said source of electrical power comprises a thermoelectric converter to generate electrical power from said heated gases and said blower is powered by said converter.

3. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein said at least one air channel comprises heat transfer ducting in communication with said cooking region to extract heat from heated gases.

4. The cooking appliance of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a hinged base and a lid to form said housing, said gas-fired firebox being positioned substantially between said base and lid laterally of said cooking region, and said at least one air channel lies within said housing in communication with said firebox.

5. The cooking appliance of claim 1, further including a controller that controls temperature of the cooking region by regulating at least one of gas flow of said gas-fired firebox and air flow in said at least one channel.

6. The cooking appliance of claim 2, further including a controller that controls an operation condition of said thermoelectric converter.

7. The cooking appliance of claim 1, further including an indicator that indicates at least one of elapsed time, internal fire, temperature of said cooking region, thermal efficiency of the converter, power output of converter, hot side and/or cold side temperature difference of said thermoelectric module, efficiency, readiness of cooked foodstuff, output temperature of firebox, motor speed, air flow rate, and BTU output of firebox.

8. A cooking appliance comprising:
a housing that defines a cooking region,
a firebox that generates heat,
a channel that conveys said heat,
a blower to transfer heated air from the channel to the cooking region, and
a thermoelectric converter that derives power from said heat in order to power the blower.

9. The cooking appliance of claim 8, wherein said channel includes heat exchanging ductwork to convey heated air to said cooking region.

10. The cooking appliance of claim 8 further including a controller that controls said blower.

11. The cooking appliance of claim 9, wherein said controller controls an operating temperature of said thermoelectric converter.

12. The cooking appliance of claim 8, further comprising lighting powered by said thermoelectric converter.

13. The cooking appliance of claim 8, wherein said thermoelectric converter provides external power for an accessory device.

14. A method of cooking comprising:
providing a cooking region,
generating heated gases,
extracting heat from said heated gases and supplying said heat to said cooking region,
thermoelectrically converting heat derived from the heated gases into electrical power, and
utilizing said electrical power to supply said heat to the cooking region.

15. The method of claim 14, further including cooling said thermoelectric converter to regulate an operating condition thereof.

16. The method of claim 14, further including powering a microprocessor by said thermoelectric converter in order to control and/or detect an operating condition of said cooking region and/or to provide an indication of said operating condition to a user.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising utilizing said electrical power to provide illumination.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising utilizing said electrical power to power and external accessory device.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising generating said heated gases laterally of said cooking region.